

THE CARRIER



February 2002 <http://www.mdarc.org> <http://www.pacificon.org>

**Official Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo
Amateur Radio Club**

OH, YES!!

**General Meeting
Friday March 15
7:30 PM**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette CA

What's inside

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Weekly Nets

Monday 8:00 PM SATERN Net Salvation Army 147.06
Wednesday 7:30 PM ATV Cable Channel 58
Thursday 7:30 PM Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club 147.06
RACES and ATV Nets see page 3

I am so proud of our membership. Over the past several months I have asked the Board for ideas and energy. They have responded splendidly. I know that in the columns that I write many of you already know the details. But only a portion of our members can attend our monthly meetings so I am eager to share my thoughts. (In ANY club, only a portion of the membership ever shows up.) In a radio club some members live too far to ever show up, so I am pleased to relay this information.

At our February meeting the activity level almost floored me. I arrived at about 6:50 and there was a beehive of activity. A section of VE's grading exams. Another corner had people stuffing envelopes to non-member hams asking them to join. Pete Harris had a beautiful set up of past public service events going on his laptop, and a large number of sign-up sheets for this years events. Harry had sheets announcing our upcoming Tech class in March. We had people lined up to buy tickets for the 2 meter radio we gave out for the attendance prize. That was very popular. I guess everyone has enough batteries for now. Our speaker, John Wood, had two tables loaded with equipment for his presentation on PSK31. It was a very well received talk.

We began selling tickets for a great radio. The **ICOM 2800H dual band mobile radio** will be the prize. The club will sell \$5 tickets and as soon as 200 are sold we will hold the drawing at the subsequent meeting. This is a beautiful radio with a large color display, easy on my eyes! Our members already bought about 25% of the tickets the first night they went on sale. Another item that everyone who does public service needs is the magnetic sign. You can buy them at the meeting or let Harry Styron know you want to purchase a pair. They slap on to the side of your car and are quite attractive.

The enthusiasm is growing, the activity level is awesome, and your attendance is up. Public service events are coming up. We are on a roll! Bring a friend. I want to add 100 new members this year. We have a lot to offer.

73, Terry, KE6WRE

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Meeting on February 15th 2002

Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, opened the general meeting at 7:30 p.m. to a busy agenda. A motion was approved to get a radio (<\$500 value and initially a top-of-the-line IC-2800 dual bander mobile radio) and award it once 200 \$5 tickets have been issued. The award may be every 2-3 months. Eoin O'Donoghue, KD4YEQ, advised that Membership ID Cards are to be sent shortly to all MDARC members. The cut off for the MDARC Directory will be March 1st, giving time to follow up with folks who haven't yet sent in their renewals.

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, Public Service Chair, reminded us that the Club sponsored 14 public service events last year covering fireworks, trail-rides, triathalons, etc. Events this year are starting for this year with MS Walk (Date is TBD either Apr 6th/7th), Top Hat Classic, Apr 27, being the first 2 and more to follow, so join the fun.

Bob Beard, KG6FPZ, announced that he is starting Web adds on the MDARC site so contact Bob if you have gear to buy/sell. Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, Field Day Chair, announced that plans for a great Field Day are coming along. A good site has been secured in Bethel Island. It has good grounding and 2x 25 ft poles ideal for Beams. He plans operations on all HF bands thru 6 meters, 2m, 220MHz & 440Mhz and more if possible. He is looking for lots of operators. Site setup is to start at noon on Fri, June 21st and there will be a BBQ dinner on Friday thanks to Dave McIntyre (for a small fee). The June Club meeting will be at the Field Day site.

Harry Styron, K6HS, advised that a Technician class is set to start on March 5 at the Salvation Army Church in Concord. Fliers have been distributed and the course fee is \$20 (includes a book).

Trevor WA6JAU presented the MDARC 2002 Budget that was published in the February Carrier newsletter. He highlighted the salient points

and alluded to some of the efforts are being made to reduce expenses over the year (including Carrier mailing costs). After answering questions, a motion to accept the budget was made and passed unanimously.

Dave McIntyre, KG6ACD, VP, introduced a proposal to change the Club dues to \$45/year for a household of up to 2 and thereafter \$10 per additional household member. This unified dues structure combines the RRRC support dues and therefore represents a \$5 reduction over the current Club and RRRC dues. It would take effect in 2003. One major driver is that we don't want to have to rely solely on a Pacificon surplus to offset budget shortfall. This proposal was passed by the board at its meeting. After a discussion and a motion covering this proposal was made and passed. Dave also encouraged folks to get tickets for the door prizes currently available at the back of the meeting and that the surplus from door prize tickets will be helping the club.

John Wood, KF6HFA gave the feature presentation for this month on PSK31, a mode that has become very popular very quickly. John covered everything you need to know about PSK31, how to get started on this mode and included demonstrations of three popular PSK31 packages that are available (including Digipan and MixW). It is an easy mode to get up and running on, particularly if you have a HF rig.

Finally the major door prize of the evening, a Yaesu VX1-R radio went to Byron Cannon, W6QNE. Terry adjourned the meeting at 9:40PM.

Respectively Submitted
Eoin O'Donoghue, KD4YEQ
Secretary

A QSL information lookup program and data file is available at <<http://www.n0oks.com/>> www.n0oks.com . The program will lookup the name and address for any Canadian or US call. You may download the program and data and see how you like it. If you continue to use the program and data, then a \$5.00 contribution would be nice. Periodic updates to the data and updates to the lookup program and additional programs are included in the \$5.00 contribution.



Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on February 4th 2002

President Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, opened the meeting at 7:31 p.m. in Emil Villa's in Concord. Present were Vice President, Dave McIntyre, KG6ACD, Secretary, Eoin O'Donoghue, KD4YEQ, directors Howard Burk, KE6PTT, John Schulze, KR6CR and Jay Caldis, KT6Y. Also present were Greg Estep, KE6VTA, Keith Lattin, N6PMF, Bob Beard, KG6FPZ and Social Chairman George Roush, WB6OFH.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Harry Styron placed an order for 50 magnetic signs, and the Board approved an extra \$100 to cover the order. The club still stands to make a profit on the proceeds.

The Carrier team decided that Pam Stryon is to be the editor. The target is to have folded Carriers available to Jay Caldis for labeling/mailling 7 days before each general meeting. It was agreed that Bob Beard would research folding machines and be responsible for setting Carrier advertising rates.

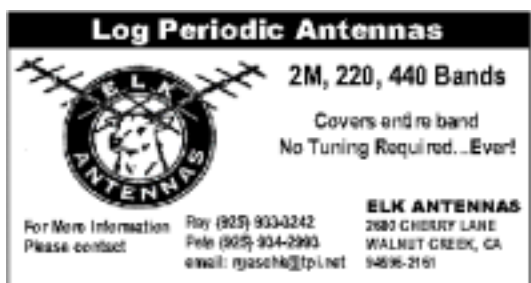
Eoin O'Donoghue gave an interim report from the Dues Committee (Dave McIntyre, Howard Burk, Terry Matzkin, John Pascale and Eoin O'Donoghue) making the following recommendations:

- Given that we don't want to solely rely on a Pacificon surplus to offset the current shortfall in MDARC budget and that Club costs are generally rising, a unified MDARC dues structure (versus separate MDARC & RRRG dues) should be implemented

- set the annual dues at \$45 per household, with \$10 additional for each member beyond two. Each member will have a vote.

- Revenue assumptions taking into account new members & attrition (300 mbrs @ \$45) of \$13,500, which would be an increase of about \$2,500 over 2001 revenues.

- 1/2 price memberships after June for (new members ONLY - not renewals)



List of Scheduled Activity for W6CX ATV

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| SATURDAYS 8:00 AM | COFFEE NET |
| SUNDAYS 8:00 AM | COFFEE NET |
| WEDNESDAY 7:30 PM | ELECTRONICS CLASS WITH KF6IQL |
| THURSDAY 8:00 PM. | GENERAL ATV NET |

RACES Nets Every Thursday at 19:00 hours

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------|------------------|
| Central County | Jim Brunk | N6BHX | 145.680 /s |
| South County | Ed Ritchie | K6SFD | 146.355 /+ 100pl |
| East County | Jim Tittle | KC6SOE | 146.535 /s |
| West County | Rich Parker | KD6JCT | 145.110 /- |

Upcoming Radio Communication Events

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW, pharris125@attbi.com

The events listed below are currently scheduled for this spring and summer. Additional events will be scheduled later, so check back with this column. To sign up give me a call (925-228-4503) or email (pharris125@attbi.com). If you want more information about a particular event, call me. If you are new to this and want to break in gently, we can team you up with another ham.

MS Walk 2002

4/6 or 4/7/02, Walnut Creek, Heather Farms Park area

Top Hat Classic, 10, 25, 50, or 75 mile bike-a-thon

4/27/02 Pleasanton/Castro Valley/Walnut Creek/Martinez

Concord Mt Diablo Trailride Assoc Trailride

5/4/02 Mt. Diablo

Human Race – walk/run

5/11/02 Lafayette Reservoir

Get Dirty Mountain Trail Run

6/1/02 Castle Rock Park, Walnut Creek

Escape from Alcatraz Swim and Bike Ride

6/16/02 San Francisco Bay and waterfront

Moraga Horseman's Trailride

6/22/02 Redwood and Chabot Regional Parks

Alcatraz Challenge Swim, Bike and Run

6/30/02 San Francisco Bay and waterfront

Pacific South Trailride

9/14/02 Redwood and Chabot Regional Parks

Concord PD Requests Ham Support for Baker to Vegas Race

In November, Bill Dunbar (N6IMS) gave a talk at the MDARC meeting about Bay Area amateur radio support for police teams running in the annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Race.

For those who were not at the meeting, this is a 120-mile relay race for teams of runners made up of police from all over the country. Each runner needs a vehicle to drive right behind him/her, and each team needs several shuttle vans to get runners into place and pick up those that have completed their leg of the relay.

For years a group of us has supported several Bay Area teams, including Fremont, who nearly always wins their division. Our support includes a network of four linked voice and data (APRS) repeaters that covers the 120-mile course which traverses some of the most remote desert in the southwest, and crosses two mountain ranges. We have primary Net Control in Las Vegas, and an alternate in Pahrump. Each vehicle gets a "tracker" consisting of a voice UHF radio and a complete APRS station. Each vehicle also needs an operator for each of the two 8-hour shifts.

We have only recently found out that Concord PD is running this year and they have requested our help. They intend to use four vehicles to support their team. The repeater network infrastructure will easily accommodate Concord (and much more!), but we need the local HAM community to provide equipment and personnel for the tracked vehicles.

Each tracker consists of one UHF radio for voice and an APRS station consisting of a VHF radio, GPS, TNC, duplexer, and GPS antenna. Additionally, the unit needs a high-gain dual-band antenna. We will be holding tracker building parties in Fremont soon. We are in need of complete trackers to be loaned, or even just loans of the individual components. We have a formal property tracking system and we pay for any damage done to the equipment while we have it (though that is very rare.)

Our most critical need for Concord, however, is operators to work in the support vehicles. These volunteers need to be willing to drive (or ride) to Las Vegas (as part of a large convoy or Bay Area hams) on Friday, April 19th. After checking in with Logistics, and receiving a late afternoon briefing on their assignment for race day, they are free to enjoy the town. Most Concord volunteers will likely be operators in a Concord PD vehicle on race day, operating on a busy tactical net. The race wraps up Sunday morning, and Sunday afternoon and evening are open for again enjoying Las Vegas. Monday morning the convoy leaves early to drive back to the Bay Area.

While it is a lot to ask of volunteers, this is a very fun and unique event. The race itself is really something to see, and it is a rare opportunity to be a part of a huge field deployment of repeaters, digipeaters, trackers, and personnel. This is great training event for emergency communications and it is a close as your are likely to ever get to a real emergency deployment. It is also a great opportunity to have Concord PD observe the services that amateur radio can provide, and for our local amateurs and volunteers to work very closely with local police.

In order to support Concord, we need 8-10 local volunteers to go to Las Vegas April 19th through the 22nd. The bottom line is Concord cannot receive our support unless we get these volunteers. If enough people show interest in hearing more details, we can arrange for one of our Logistics folks to come up from Fremont and give a talk somewhere near Concord.

If you would like to loan equipment or be part of a tracker building party (and learn more about APRS), please contact Jim Wood (KE6IVA) at jimjoann@pacbell.net. If you think you might like to volunteer, please email staffing@baker-to-vegas.org. In either of those cases, please also contact Reggie Driscoll (Concord EC) at fdriscoll@worldnet.att.net. Please contact us right away if you're interested, as time is very short!

Patrick McCurdy - KQ6TM

MDARC Auction

April 19, 2002

The club will hold its annual auction April 19. Ham gear and related equipment are welcome. Doors open at 6:00 PM, auction begins 7:00 PM. The location will be 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. This is a great opportunity to clean out the "shack" or to search for bargains.

Below is a list of some of the bargains that will be on the block at this year's auction.

Drake T-4X Transmitter
Collins 75S-3B
Collins 75A-3 Receiver
Heath kit Oscilloscope model 10-18
Heath kit Audio Generator model 1G-72
Knight R.F. Generator
RLC Electronics Dummy Load
SWAN 350 Transceiver
SWR Bridge
SWAN Power Supply
Antenna Tuner
Hallicrafter SX 117 Receiver
Headphones, Speakers, Microphones and much more.

These events are always a lot of fun. I hope to see you there.

John Schulze, KR6CR
Auction Chair

- Send out renewal notices on/after January 1st (rather than current practice of Oct/Nov)

- implement new dues structure for 2003, and given that the process includes getting board approval, notifying members, a membership vote, it is prudent to start the processing now.

Following a discussion, the Board unanimously adopted this recommendation. The next step is to bring it to the members and Terry is to appoint a Byelaws committee.

A report from the Membership Committee consisting of Dave McIntyre, Howard Burk, Terry Matzkin, Eoin O'Donoghue, Jay Caldis, & Bob Beard, identified new ideas to increase membership & participation:

- Publicize MDARC more: at seminars (e.g. REI), at our VE test sessions, in the Carrier with our Phone #, develop membership solicitation packages

- Facilitate providing lifts to club meetings for those who don't have transportation

- Publicize scheduled ATV broadcasts of taped club meetings

- Use email for reminders of club meetings

- Mail membership solicitation packages to those on Terry's Pacificon stub list

- Set up phone tree for follow-up to solicitations/member renewals

The Board approved Dave McIntyre's request to fund a Club table at the Livermore Swap Meet to be used for advertising and also for club members to sell stuff.

The Field Day site at Bethel Island has been booked. Dave McIntyre advised that there will be a minimal fee for the BBQ on the Friday prior to Field Day and he will ask Tracy to do a flyer.

From the Technical Committee, Keith Lattin/Greg Estep hope the new repeater will be available at the end of this week. Negotiations with ATS (tower owners) are in progress. The Voters and IRLP projects are progressing and Terry would like to see them working for Pacificon. An ATV input interference problem is being worked.

A note from Harry Styron advised that the Technician class will start on March 5 at the

Salvation Army Church in Concord. Terry has some updates to the flyer to give to Harry. The Board approved the purchase of 10 books and a \$20 course fee (includes book).

Howard Burk/Eoin O'Donoghue updated the MDARC contact information on ARRL site.

Terry is planning a Board retreat to cover strategic planning (12-18 month plan). Terry and Dave McIntyre will review the Byelaws to determine if any changes are needed. Purchase of supplies are be centralized thru the Club so we can save thru bulk buying.

Dave McIntyre proposed revamping the current door prizes and offer radios. The Board approved getting a radio (<\$150 value e.g. Yaseu VX1) per meeting as a door prize, with tickets at 3 for \$5, and also approved another door prize, a radio (<\$500 value) awarded once 200 \$5 tickets are issued.

Tracy Schwartz is the point person for sending Club cards (get well, congrats, etc).

Jay Caldis received a request to make the Club Repeater available for ARRL Traffic Nets. Following a discussion, the Board voted on the motion and this request is denied.

The 2002 Budget will be presented for approval at the next Club general meeting. Terry adjourned the meeting at 9PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Eoin O'Donoghue, KD4YEQ
Secretary

ONE GENEROUS HAM

The winner of the big prize at our annual dinner party in January was Bruce Perens, K6BP. He won an ADI, AT-201 2 meter radio. Since Bruce has more radios than Carter has pills, he has generously donated the radio back to MDARC. We will use it as a brand new item in our upcoming auction. Thanks, Bruce, for your wonderful donation to the club.

MDARC Board of Directors

| Position | Who | How to find them |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| President | Terry Matzkin KE6WRE | 925-820-5848 (h) myword@sprynet.com |
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| Treasurer | Trevor Hall WA6JAU | 925-680-5209 (h) wa6jau@netzero.net |
| Emergency Coordinator | Harry Styron K6HS | 925-945-6785 (h) k6hs@arll.net |
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| Director at Large | John Schulze KR6CR | 925-681-0552 (h) schulze2@ix.netcom.com |
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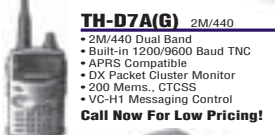
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• Dual RX
• Collins SSB filter built-in
• 100W, Power supply built-in
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | | |
|------------|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 03/04/2002 | 7:30 PM | MDARC Board Meeting | Emil Villa's in Concord |
| 03/15/2002 | 7:30 PM | MDARC General Meeting | |
| 03/16/2002 | 8:00 AM | PACIFICON General meeting | Emil Villa's Willow Pass Rd |
| 03/29/2002 | | Carrier Deadline | |
| 04/01/2002 | 7:30 PM | MDARC Board Meeting | Emil Villa's in Concord |
| 04/19/2002 | 7:30 PM | MDARC General Meeting | |
| 04/20/2002 | 8:00 AM | PACIFICON General meeting | Emil Villa's Willow Pass Rd |
| 04/26/2002 | | Carrier Deadline | |

Carrier articles should be sent to Robert Beard <mailto:rbeard@speakeasy.net>

MDARC Repeaters

147.060 MHz + / PL 100 Hz
224.780 MHz - / PL 77 Hz
441.325 MHz + / PL 100 Hz

ATV: Input 1289.25 Mhz
ATV: Output 427.250 MHz Cable Channel 58
ATV: Output 1241.25 Mhz
APRS: 144.39 MHz
TCP/IP: 145.71 MHz

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
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